NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1141, SUB 8

IN THE MATTER OF:

APPLICATION BY 904 GEORGETOWN TREATMENT PLANT, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO ADJUST AND INCREASE RATES FOR PROVIDING SEWER UTILITY SERVICE IN ITS SERVICE AREA IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY IN NORTH CAROLINA

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

JULIE PERRY

ON BEHALF OF

904 GEORGETOWN TREATMENT PLANT, LLC

JULY 6, 2023

1	O.	PLEASE	STATE	YOUR	NAME	AND	RUSINESS	ADDRESS FOR	THE

- 2 **RECORD**.
- 3 A. My name is Julie G. Perry. I am a Principal Utility Consultant and Co-Owner of
- 4 Peedin & Perry Consulting, LLC. My business address is 3440 Bizzell Grove
- 5 Church Road, Princeton, North Carolina 27569.

6 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND

- 7 BUSINESS EXPERIENCE.
- 8 A. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Accounting from North Carolina State
- 9 University. I am a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the State of North
- 10 Carolina.
- I began my career with the Office of the State Auditor in October 1989, where I
- performed audits of state agencies, Community Colleges, and other performance
- audits. In September 1990, I joined the Accounting Division of the Public Staff of
- the North Carolina Utilities Commission and remained employed there until my
- retirement on May 1, 2022. At that time and with over 32 years of State service, I
- was the Accounting Manager in the Natural Gas and Transportation Section of the
- 17 Public Staff. Over the course of my tenure with the Public Staff, I have filed
- 18 testimony and affidavits in general rate cases, as well as presented items for
- 19 approval in front of this Commission for Water, Transportation, and Natural Gas
- 20 Utilities, as well as mergers, annual reviews, and other special projects and
- 21 investigations including affiliated agreements and proceedings for the expansion
- of natural gas service in North Carolina.

1 O	\mathbf{w}	HAT IS	THE P	PURPOSE	OF Y	YOUR	TESTIMONY?
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- 2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the request by 904 Georgetown
- 3 Treatment Plant, LLC (904 Georgetown or the Company) for an increase in rates
- as provided in the Application for Rate Increase and the attached Exhibit I. My
- testimony addresses certain financial aspects of the rate case, including 904
- 6 Georgetown's proforma revenues and expenses, including the pro-forma
- 7 adjustments.
- 8 Q. WHAT ROLE DID YOU HAVE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE
- 9 APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASE AND THE SUPPORTING
- 10 **SCHEDULES?**
- 11 A. My role was to prepare the Application for Rate Increase and to prepare the
- Exhibit I schedules attached to the Application.
- 13 Q. WHAT TEST YEAR PERIOD IS 904 GEORGETOWN USING IN ITS
- 14 APPLICATION FOR A RATE INCREASE?
- 15 A. The Company is utilizing a test year in this proceeding for their fiscal year ended
- 16 October 31, 2022.
- 17 Q. WHAT IS THE REVENUE INCREASE REQUESTED BY
- 18 904 GEORGETOWN TREATMENT PLANT?
- 19 A. 904 Georgetown's current per book test year revenues based on the current rates
- are \$239,394, and current expenses are \$373,225. These revenues currently
- 21 result in 904 Georgetown operating at a net loss of \$133,831. After

1	annualizing present rates, the pro-forma revenues are \$239,019. The Company
2	application proposes to increase service revenues by \$136,700, which
3	equates to total revenues of \$375,718, an increase of approximately 36.38% over
4	present annual revenues. The Company's rates have not been adjusted since 2007,
5	except for a change Ordered by the Commission in Docket W-1441, Sub 6 (2015),
6	related to a change in the State corporate income tax rate.

7 Q. WHAT IS 904 GEORGETOWN'S PROPOSED CAPITAL STRUCTURE IN

8 THIS RATE CASE?

9 A. 904 Georgetown is proposing an equity ratio of 50% and a debt ratio of 50%. The proposed cost of long-term debt is 4.50%.

11 Q. WHAT RATE OF RETURN DOES 904 GEORGETOWN'S CURRENT

12 RATES YIELD?

13 A. 904 Georgetown's current rates yield a rate of return on operating revenue 14 deductions of (35.90%).

15 Q. WHAT RATE OF RETURN WOULD 904 GEORGETOWN'S PROPOSED

16 RATES YIELD?

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A. The rates proposed by 904 Georgetown would yield an overall rate of return on operating revenue deductions of 7.15% based on a margin on operating expenses which relates to an operating ratio of 93.47% (including taxes) or 93.33% (excluding taxes). As allowed under NC Gen Stat 62-133.1, we have used the operating ratio method to evaluate 904 Georgetown's proposed rate increase. Prior to the operating ratio determination and due to the small margin between the proposed revenue

[requirement calculations, if the rate base method was determined to be appropriate,
2	we propose using a capital structure of 50% debt and 50% equity and a rate of return
3	on common equity of 9.8%, and a debt cost of 4.5%. This would result in an overall
1	return of 7.15%.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ADJUSTMENTS YOU ARE MAKING TO 904 GEORGETOWN'S ORIGINAL COST RATE BASE.

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- A. I have made pro forma adjustments to plant in service to reflect additions since the last rate case in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 5, as well as adjustments during the test year to reclassify expenditures from Maintenance & Repair expense to Plant in Service. I have also made corresponding adjustments to depreciation expense and accumulated depreciation to reflect these additions and reclassifications to plant in service.
 - In addition, I have calculated cash working capital based on the standard formula of one eighth of operation and maintenance expenses. The average tax accruals are also calculated using a standard formula of one-half of property taxes and one-fifth of payroll taxes.

17 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ADJUSTMENTS YOU HAVE MADE TO THE 18 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES IN THIS CASE.

- I have made several adjustments to the operation and maintenance expenses in this case to reflect an ongoing level of expenses for the Company's operations. I will briefly describe each of the adjustments below:
- Salaries expense I have made an adjustment to reflect the 2023-2024 salaries of

- the Company's employees. This results in an increase of \$2,390 to salaries expense, and a corresponding adjustment to payroll taxes of \$183.
- Administrative and Office expenses I have made an adjustment to reflect increases for monthly office rent and office rental equipment for 2023. This results in an increase of \$1,440 for administrative and office expenses.

- Maintenance & repair expenses I have made adjustments to remove certain items from maintenance and repair expenses and reclassify those items to plant in service. I have also made adjustments to normalize unexpected maintenance and repair expenses, as well as to normalize equipment repair expenses. These adjustments result in an overall adjustment to maintenance and repair expenses of \$7,110.
- Sludge Hauling expenses I have made an adjustment to normalize sludge hauling expenses by reviewing the levels over a two-year period due to a higher level that was experienced during the test year. When compared to the test year level of sludge hauling, this will result in a decrease in test year sludge hauling expenses of (\$15,400).
- Utilities expenses I have adjusted utilities expenses to reflect certain expenses that should be removed because these expenses should be borne by Sandpiper Golf & Country Club and not 904 Georgetown. These expenses have currently been removed from the Company's books on a going-forward basis. I have also adjusted the cell phone expenses to reflect a current ongoing level. These adjustments result in a decrease in utilities expenses of (\$25,693).

1		Landscape, Mowing & Effluent Expenses – I have adjusted this expense
2		category to reflect a current ongoing level of expenses, which includes the
3		updated Effluent Agreement expenses using the same basis as was done in the
4		prior rate case. This results in a decrease of (\$4,020).
5		Professional Fees – I have adjusted professional fees to reflect a reclassification
6		of certain engineering services from professional fees to regulatory expenses. This
7		results in a decrease of (\$1,405).
8		Regulatory expense - I have adjusted regulatory expense to reflect actual and
9		estimated legal and accounting services, as well as the application fee and other
10		fees related to mailing notices to customers required for the filing of this rate case.
11		We plan to update these estimated expenses either by the close of the hearing or
12		in a late-filed exhibit after the hearing. I have amortized these expenses over a
13		period of 3 years. This results in an increase of \$8,191.
14	Q.	PLEASE DESCRIBE THE YOUR CALCULATIONS FOR INCOME
15		TAXES.
16	A.	I have calculated state and federal income taxes based on the
17		statutory rates of 2.5% and 21%, respectively.
18	Q.	DOES THIS COMPLETE YOUR TESTIMONY?
19	A.	Yes.

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904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 INDEX TO EXHBITS

LINE NO.		SCHEDULE NO.
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6	NET OPERATING INCOME FOR A RETURN	3
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19	CALCULATION OF OPERATING RATIOS	4A

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 MARGIN ON OPERATING REVENUE DEDUCTIONS REQUIRING A RETURN

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Per Books (a)	After Proforma Adjustments (b)		Company Proposed Rates (c)
1 .	Net operating income for a return	(\$133,831) [1] (\$104,649)	[4]	\$24,550 [6]
2	Operating revenue deductions requiring a return	372,830 [2] 343,357	[5]	343,357 [7]
3	Return	-35.90% [3]30.48%	[3]	7.15% [8]

- [1] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 30, Column (a).
- [2] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 19 + Line 20 + Line 21 + Line 22 + Line 23, Column (a).
- [3] Line 1 divided by Line 2.
- [4] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 30, Column (c).
- [5] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 19 + Line 20 + Line 21 + Line 22 + Line 23, Column (c).
- [6] Line 2 x Line 3
- [7] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 19 + Line 20 + Line 21 + Line 22 + Line 23, Column (e).
- [8] Per Company.

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC

Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8

CALCULATION OF GROSS REVENUE EFFECT FACTORS

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Capital Structure (a)	Cost Rates (b)	Retention Factor (c)	Gross Revenue Effect (d)
1 2 3	Rate Base Factor: Debt Equity Total	50.00% [1] 50.00% [1] 100.00%	4.50% [1] 9.80% [1]	0.998700 [2] 0.769249 [3]	
4 5 6 7 8 9	Net Income Factor: Total revenue Regulatory fee (L4 x .13%) Balance (L4 - L5) State income tax (L10 x 2.5%) Balance (L10 - L11) Federal income tax (L12 X 21%) Retention factor (L12 - L13)	1.000000 0.001300 0.998700 0.024968 0.973733 0.204484 0.769249			

^[1] Per Application.

^[2] Column (a), Line 6.

^[3] Column (a), Line 10.

^[4] Column (a) multiplied by Column (b) divided by Column (c).

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ORIGINAL COST RATE BASE For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Company Books @ 10/31/2022 [1]	Pro Forma Adjustments (b)	Company Amounts [5]
1	Plant in service	\$1,010,047	\$68,213 [2]	\$1,078,260
2	Accumulated depreciation	(900,338)	5,340 [2]	(894,998)
3	Net plant in service (L1 + L2)	109,710	73,553	183,262
4	Contributions in aid of construction (CIAC)	0	0	0
5	Accumulated amortization of CIAC `	0	0	0
6	Customer Advances	0	0	0
7	Accumulated deferred income taxes (ADIT)	0	0	0
8	Cash working capital	0	33,988 [3]	33,988
9	Average tax accruals	0	(894) [4]	(894)
10	Original cost rate base (Sum of L3 thru L9)	\$109,710	\$106,647	\$216,35 <u>6</u>

Per Sewer Fixed Assets as of 10-31-2022.
 Exhibit I, Schedule 2A, Line 48.
 Exhibit I, Schedule 2-1, Line 2.
 Exhibit I, Schedule 2-1, Line 7.
 Column (a) plus Column (b), unless otherwise footnoted.

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 CALCULATION OF PLANT IN SERIVCE, ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATON, AND DEPRECIATION EXPENSE For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Exhibit I Schedule 2A

Line No.	Asset Description	Cost Basis	Placed in Service Date [1]	Service Life in Years	Accum Depr through 10/31/2021 per Books	Depr Expense @ 10/31/2022 + Updates Column (b)/(d)	Accum Depreciation thru 10/31/2022 Updates
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1	Treatment Plant	\$219,911	4/20/1999	25	\$197,920	\$8,796	\$206,7
2	Plant Foundation	255,974	4/20/1999	25	230,377	10,239	240.61
3	Tanks	101,000	4/20/1999	25	90,900	4,040	94,94
4	Pump	141,825	4/20/1999	25	127,643	5,673	133,31
5	Motor	101,000	4/20/1999	25	90,900	4,040	94,94
6	Fence	8,775	4/20/1999	15	8,775	-	8,77
7	Road	5,440	4/20/1999	15	5,440	-	5,44
8	Computer	1,070	10/14/2005	5	1,070	-	1,07
9	Time Monitor	168	1/13/2004	7	84	-	8
10	Filing Cabinet	131	2/2/2004	7	66	-	е
11	Float, Valve	355	3/30/2004	7	177	- ,	17,
12	Motor	815	9/1/2004	7	408	-	40
13	Delay Switch	55	9/1/2004	7	27	-	2
14	Pump	3,871	10/26/2004	7	1,936	-	1,93
15	Lift Station Meter	1,225	11/3/2004	7	613	-	61
16	Float/Switch	428	2/3/2005	7	428	-	42
17	Signs	150	2/8/2005	7	150	-	18
18	Manhole Cover	49	2/21/2005	7	49	-	4
19	Pump	1,393	4/25/2005	7	1,393	-	1,39
20	2 Pumps	1,569	5/1/2005	7	1,569	-	1,56
21	Testers	189	5/17 <i>/</i> 2005	7	189	-	10
22	Storage File	137	6/17 <i>/</i> 2005	7	137	-	13
23	Testers	170	1/30/2006	7	170	=	17
24	Equipment	414	5/1/2006	7	414	-	41
25	Vertical Turbine Pumps	13,882	5/1/2007	7	13,882	-	13,88
26	Pilot Control	516	5/31/2007	7	516	-	51
27	Pump	1,145	5/12/2008	7	573	-	57
28	4" Diesel Pump	646	10/29/2008	5	323	-	32
29	Blower Aerifier for Holding Tanks	1,980	3/9/2009	5	1,980	-	1,98
30	Bay Station control Panel	3,500	3/11/2010	5	3,500	-	3,50
31	Pump	10,022	2/27/2013	5	5,011	-	5,01
32	2HP Grinder Pump	13,908	5/14/2015	5 5	13,908	2 400	13,90
33	Pump Wyndfall Lift Station	15,651	11/1/2019		7,826	3,130	10,9
34	2 Pumps	11,625	10/19/2020	5 5	3,488	2,325	5,81
35 36	Mapping - Structure and Improvements	20,875 51,240	6/30/2020	5	6,263 5.124	4,175 10,248	10,43 15.33
36 37	Control Panel Control Panel	51,240 5,818	5/11/2021 6/14/2021	5	5,124 582	10,248	15,37
3 <i>1</i> 38	Generator	5,818 34,000	10/13/2021	5	3,400	1,164 6.800	10.20
38 39	Pump	34,000 1,519	12/15/2021	5	3,400 152	304	10,20
39 40	Zoe E295-2in flange 2 hp swr pump	1,513	10/10/2022	5	102	303	30
40 41	10 horsepower motor	1,313	10/19/2022	5	-	255	25
7 1	Completed Post-Test Year Plant Additions:	1,270	1011312022	3	-	200	25
42	Noise Dampening Foam Fence for Blower Motors	7,490	4/1/2023	7	-	1.070	1.07
42 43	New Railings on Lift Station	6,200	12/1/2023	7	-	1,070 886	1,07
40	Budgeted Projects for 2023:	•			-		
44	Sounds Reducing Lids over Blowers	5,490	10/1/2023	7	_	784	78
45	Refurbish Sand Filters	23,850	10/1/2023	7		3,407	3,40
46	Totals (Sum of Lines 1-45)	\$1,078,260			\$827,359	\$67,639	\$894,99
47	Amount Per Boooks	1,010,047				70,108	900,33
18	Pro Forma Adjustment per Company (L47 -L46)	\$68,213				(\$2,470)	\$5,34

^[1] Per Docket No. W-1141, Sub 5 - prior rate case in 2010, plus additons per General Ledger and Depreciation Expense Report.

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 CALCULATION OF CASH WORKING CAPITAL AND AVERAGE TAX ACCRUALS

Line No.	<u>Item</u>	Amount
1	Cash Working Capital: Total O&M expenses	\$271,906 [1]
2	Cash working capital (L1 x 1/8)	33,988
3	Average Tax Accruals: Property taxes	437_[2]
4	Average accrual (L3 x 1/2)	219
5	Payroll taxes	3,375 [3]
6	Average accrual (L5 x 1/5)	675
7	Average tax accruals	\$894

^[1] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Column (c), Line 19

^[2] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Column (c), Line 22

^[3] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Column (c), Line 23

Exhibit 1 Schedule 3

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 NET OPERATING INCOME FOR A RETURN For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

		İ	Present Rates		Proposed	d Rates
Line No.		Amount Per Books [1]	Pro Forma Adjustments (b)	After Pro Forma Adjustments (c)	[2] Rate Increase (d)	After Rate Increase [3] (e)
	Operating Revenues:					
1	Service revenues	\$239,257	(376)	238,882	\$136,700	\$375,581
2	Miscellaneous revenues	137	0	137	0	137
3	Uncollectible accounts	0	0	0	0_	0
4	Total operating revenues (Sum of L1 thru L3)	239,394	(376)	239,019	136,700	375,718
	Operation & Maintenance Expenses:					
5	Salary expense	39,000	2,390	41,390	0	41,390
6	Administrative & office expense (except salaries)	19,244	1,440	20,684	0	20,684
7	Maintenance & repair expense (Incl. Contract Labor)	63,107	7,110	70,218	0	70,218
8	Landscape & Mowing & Effluent expenses	46,009	(4,020)	41,989	0	41,989
9	Utilities expense	32,006	(25,693)	6,313	0	6,313
10	Chemicals for treatment	1,772	, o	1,772	0	1,772
11	Testing Fees	4,720	. 0	4,720	0	4,720
12	Permit Fees	1,310	0	1,310	0	1,310
13	Sludge removal expense	65,100	(15,400)	49,700	0	49,700
14	Other Expenses: Professional expenses	11,199	(1,405)	9,794	0	9,794
15	Other Expenses: Insurance Expense	13,827	` oʻ	13,827	0	13,827
16	Other Expenses: Bad Debt Expense	1,738	0	1,738	0	1,738
17	Other Expenses; Miscellaneous Expense	61	200	261	0	261
18	Regulatory expense	0	8,191	8,191	0	8,191
19	Total O&M expenses (Sum of L5 thru L18)	299,093	(27,186)	271,906	0	271,906
	Depreciation and Taxes:					
20	Depreciation expense	70,108	(2,470)	67,639	0	67,639
21	Amortization of CIAC	0	(, 0)	0.,	ō	0
22	Property taxes	437	Ō	437	Ō	437
23	Payroll taxes	3,192	183	3,375	0	3,375
24	Other Taxes	0	0	0	Ō	0
25	Regulatory Fee	395	(84)	311	178	488
26	State income tax	0	`0	0	797	797
27	Federal income tax	0	0	0	6,526	6,526
28	Total depreciation and taxes (Sum of L20 thru L27)	74,133	(2,371)	71,761	7,501	79,262
29	Total operating revenue deductions (L19 + L28)	373,225	(29,557)	343,668	7,501	351,168
30	Net operating income for a return (L4 - L29)	(\$133,831)	\$29,182	(\$104,649)	\$129,199	\$24,550

^[1] Per Sch 3A Company Proforma NOI, Column (a).
[2] Per Sch 3A Company Proforma NOI, Column (t).
[3] Coulmn (c) + Column (d).

Exhibit I Schedule 3A Page 1 of 2

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 CALCULATION OF UPDATED NET OPERATING INCOME FOR A RETURN For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

						COMPANY P	RO FORMA ADJUST	MENTS					
Line		Per Books	Service		Administrative	Maintenance &	Sludge	Utilities				Landscape & Mowing	Professional
No.	<u>ltem</u>	10/31/22 [1]	Revenues [2]		[3] & Office Expense	[4] Repair Expense [5]	Removal [6]	Expense [7]	Chemicals	Testing Fees	Permit Fees	& Irrigation [8]	Expenses [9]
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	Ø	(k)	(1)
	Operating Revenues:												
	Service revenues	\$239,257	(\$376)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Miscellaneous revenues	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Uncollectible accounts		0	0	0	<u> </u>	0_	0	0	- 0	. 0_	. 0	0
4	Total operating revenues (Sum of L1 thru L3)	239,394	(376)	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
	Operation & Maintenance Expenses:												
	Salary expense	39,000	0	2,390	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	a	٥
6	Administrative & Office expense (except salaries)	19,244	٥	. 0	1,440	D	0	ó	Ō	ō	ō	ō	ō
7	Maintenance & Repair expense (Incl Contarct Operator)	63,107	0	0	. 0	7,110	٥	0	0	0	0	ā	ō
	Landscape & Mowing & Effluent expenses	46,009	0	0	0	o	0	0	0	0	0	(4,020)	ō
9	Utilities expense	32,006	0	0	0	٥	0	(25,693)	0	ò	Ó	o'	ō
10	Chemicals for treatment	1,772	0	0	0	٥	0	` oʻ	ò	ō	Ō	ō	ō
11	Testing Fees	4,720	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	٥	0	0	0
	Permit Fees	1,310	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	o
13	Sludge Removal expense	65,100	0	0	0	0	(15,400)	0	0	0	0	0	ò
14	Other Expenses: Professional expenses	11,199	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,405)
	Other Expenses; Insurance Expense	13,827	0	0	0	٥	0	0	0	0	0	0	o
	Other Expenses; Bad Debt Expense	1,738	0	0	0	0	0	D	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Expenses: Miscellaneous Expense	61	0	D	0	0	0	0	0	D .	0	0	0
	Regulatory expense	0	0	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Total O&M expenses (Sum of L5 thru L18)	299,093	0	2,390	1,440	7,110	(15,400)	(25,693)	. 0	0	0	(4,020)	(1,405)
	Depreciation and Taxes:												
	Depreciation expense	70,108	n	D	0	n	0	n	n	n	'n	0	n
	Amortization of CIAC	0	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	Ď	ā	ō	ő
22	Property taxes	437	0	Ō	0	0	Ö	ō	ō	ō	ō	ō	Ď
	Payroll Taxes	3,192	ō	Ö	ō	O	ū	Ď	ō	ō	ō	ō	ŏ
	Other Taxes	. 0	0	D	0	0	0	ō	ō	Ď	ō	ō	Ď
	Regulatory Fee	395	0	D	0	0	0	ò	ò	ō	ō	ō	Ď
26	State income tax	0	0	D	٥	0	0	Ö	0	0	0	0	0
	Federal income tax	0	0	D	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Total depreciation and taxes (Sum of L20 thru L27)	74,133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ó
29	Total operating revenue deductions (L19 + L28)	373,225	0	2,390	1,440	7,110	(15,400)	(25,693)	0	0	0	(4,020)	(1,405)
30	Net operating income for a return (L4 - L29)	(\$133,831)	(\$376)	(\$2,390)	(\$1,440)	(\$7,110)	\$15,400_	\$25,693	\$0	\$0		\$4,020	\$1,405

- [1] Per Company's October 31, 2022 General Ledger.
 [2] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-1.
 [3] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-2.
 [4] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-3.
 [5] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-4.
 [6] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-5.
 [7] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-5.
 [7] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-6.
 [9] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-7.
 [10] Adjustment to Regulatory fee based on statutory rate of ,13%.
 [11] Adjustment to Include the Annual Report Fee to the Secretary of State.
 [12] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-2.
 [13] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-2.
 [14] Exhibit I, Schedule 3-2. Line 4.
 [15] Sun of Schedule 3-2. Line 4.
 [15] Sun of Schedule 3-2. Line 4.
 [16] Gelumn (a) plus Column (b).

Exhibit 1 Schedule 3A Page 2 of 2

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Dockot No. W-1141, Sub 8 CALCULATION OF UPDATED NET OPERATING INCOME FOR A RETURN For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

	COMPANY PRO FORMA ADJUSTMENTS								
Line		Insurance		Miscellaneous	Regulatory		Payroll	Total	Proforma
No.	<u>ltem</u>	Expense	Regulatory Fee [10]	Expense [11]	Expense	[12] Depreciation [13]	Taxes [3		Balance [16"
		(m)	(n)	(a)	(p)	(q)	(r)	(s)	(t)
	Operating Revenues:								
	Service revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	50	\$0	\$ 0	(\$376)	\$238,882
2	Miscellaneous revenues	0	0	0	0	0	_0	٥	137
3	Uncollectible accounts	0	0	0	<u>0</u>		0		0
4	Total operating revenues (Sum of L1 thru L3)	0	0	0	0	Ö	0	(376)	239,019
	Operation & Maintenance Expenses:								
5	Salary expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,390	41,390
6	Administrative & Office expense (except salaries)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,440	20,684
7	Maintenance & Repair expense (Incl Contarct Operator)	0	0	0	0	0	D	7,110	70,218
8	Landscape & Mowing & Effluent expenses	0	0	0	0	0	D	(4,020)	41,989
9	Utilities expense	0	0	0	D	0	D	(25,693)	6,313
10	Chemicals for treatment	0	٥	0	0	٥	D	٥	1,772
11	Testing Fees	0	0	0	D	0	0	0	4,720
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,310
	Sludge Removal expense	0	0	0	0	٥	0	(15,400)	49,700
	Other Expenses: Professional expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,405)	9,794
	Other Expenses: Insurance Expense	0	D	0	0	٥	٥	٥	13,827
	Other Expenses: Bad Debt Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,738
	Other Expenses: Miscellaneous Expense	0	0	200 [11]	0	0	0	200	261
	Regulatory expense	0	0 _	O	8,191	.0	Ω	_8,191	8,191
19	Total O&M expenses (Sum of L5 thru L18)	0	. 0	200	8,191	0	0	(27,186)	271,906
	Depreciation and Taxes:								
	Depreciation expense	0	D	0	0	(2,470)	0	(2,470)	67,639
	Amortization of CIAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	٥
22	Property taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	437
23	Payroll Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	183	183	3,375
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	٥
	Regulatory Fee	0	(84)	0	0	0	0	(84)	311
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	D
	Federal income tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2B	Total depreciation and taxes (Sum of L20 thru L27)	O	(84)	. 0	. 0	(2,470)	183	(2,371)	71,761
29	Total operating revenue deductions (L19 + L28)	0	(84)	200	8,191	(2,470)	1.83	(29,557)	343,668
30	Net operating income for a return (L4 - L29)	\$0	\$84	(\$200)	(\$8,191)	\$2,470	(\$183)	\$29.182	(\$104,649)
-				(3200)	100,107	131.10	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		12.2 (3.40)

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO SERVICE REVENUES For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Amount
1	Number of Customers	795 [1]
2	Current Monthly Rate Per Customer	\$25.04 [2]
3	Months	12
4	Annualized Service Revenues (L1 x L2 x L3)	\$238,882
5	Amount included in Test Year	239,257 [3]
6	Adjustment to Service Revenues	(\$376)

^[1] Current customers per Company.

^[2] Current Tariffed rate per Docket No. W-1141, Sub 6.

^[3] Per Company.

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO SALARY EXPENSE

For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Exhibit I Schedule 3-2

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Amount	
1	2022 Salary expense	\$39,000	[1]
2	2023 Salary expense	41,390	[2]
3	Increase in Salary expense (L2 - L1)	2,390	
4	Increase in Payroll Taxes (L3 X 7.65%)	\$183	
[1]	Breakdown per Company - Ties to 2022 General Ledger: Tim Tilma - Manager of the 904 Georgetown - Acct 9560 E.B. Otmar - General & Admin Staff - Acct 9561 Tonda Hockenbury - G&A - Accts Payable - Acct 9561	Annual \$15,000 12,000 12,000 \$39,000	
[2]	2023 Salaries Tim Tilma - Manager of the 904 Georgetown - Acct 9560 E.B. Otmar - General & Admin Staff - Acct 9561 Tonda Hockenbury - G&A - Accts Payable - Acct 9561	\$15,000 16,640 9,750 \$41,390	

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE & OFFICE EXPENSE

For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line
No.

<u>Item</u>

	Administative & Office Expense Increases:	2022 Test Year <u>Amount</u> [1] (a)	2023 Company Amounts [2]	Pro Forma Adjustment [3] (c)	
1 2	Monthly Office Rent X 12 months Monthly Rental Equipment Office	\$12,000 	\$13,200 2,880	\$1,200 240	
3	Totals (L1 + L2)	\$14,640	\$16,080	\$1,440	

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{ll} Per Report_from_904_Georgetown_Treatment_Plant^LJ_LLC - General Ledger @ 10.31.22 \end{tabular}$

Total 6220-00 · RENTAL OFFICE SPACE Total 6230-00 · RENT EQUIP/MACHINES-OFFICE

\$12,000 2,640

\$14,640

[2] Per Company.[3] Column (b) - minus Column (a).

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO MAINTENANCE & REPAIR EXPENSES

For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line No.	Item			Amount	
 1	Test Year Maintenance & Repair Expenses at October 31, 2022			\$63,107	[1]
'	Test Teal Maintenance a Repair Expenses at October 61, 2022			Ψ00,107	ניו
2	Remove Acct 6055-PH · PUMPHOUSE SHARED UPKEEP/REPAIRS			(4,800)	[2]
3	Remove and Capitalize: Pumps and Motor -6052-00 · EQUIP. MAINT. & REPAIRS			(4,308)	[5]
	Adjustment to Normalize Unexpected M&R Expenses for the 12 ME October 31st:				
4	2020 \$26	375 [31		
5	· ·		3]		
6			3]		
7	Total (Sum Lines 4-6) 31,	000			
8	3-Year Average 10,	333			
9	Less: Test year - Acct 6335 - Unexpected Expense - M&R	<u> 825 </u>			
10	Adjustment to normalize unexpected expenses (L8 - L9)			9,708	
	Adjustment to Normalize Equipment Repair Expenses for the 12 ME October	31st:			
11	2020 \$28,	614 [4	l]		
	•	785 [4	•		
		9 <u>35</u> [5	j]		
14	Total (Sum of Lines 11-13) 76,	334_			
15	3-Year Average (L14/3) 25,	445			
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	935_			
17	Adjustment to normalize unexpected expenses (L15- L16)			6,510	
18	Maintenance & Repair Expenses Per Company (L1 + L2 + L3 + L10 + L17)			\$70,218	

[1] Per Report_from_904_Georgetown_Treatment_Plant^LJ_LLC - General Ledger @ 10.31.22 Test Year M&R Expenses General Ledger @ 10/31/2022:

6335-00 · UNEXPECTED EXP/ACCIDENTIAL SPIL	\$625
6055-PH · PUMPHOUSE SHARED UPKEEP/REAPIRS	4,800
6052-00 · EQUIP, MAINT, & REPAIRS	23,242
8780-00 · TRMT.PLANT OPERATIONS	34,440
	\$63,107

- [2] Adjustment to remove per Public Staff recommnedation in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 5.
- [3] Per General Ledger Account 6335-00 · UNEXPECTED EXP/ACCIDENTIAL SPIL for each respective year.
- [4] Per General Ledger Acct 6052-00 · EQUIP. MAINT. & REPAIRS for each respective year, unless otherwise noted.
- [5] Per Report_from_904_Georgetown_Treatment_Plant^LJ_LLC General Ledger @ 10.31.22 Test Year M&R Expenses General Ledger @ 10/31/2022:

6052-00 · EQUIP. MAINT. & REPAIRS	\$23,242
Reclassify & capitalize:	
Purchase of Pump	1,519
Purchase zoe E295-2in flange 2 hp swr pump	1,513
Purchase 10 horsepower motor	1,276
	4,308
Adjusted Test Year Acct 6052-00 · EQUIP. MAINT. & REPAIRS	\$18,935

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8

ADJUSTMENT TO SLUDGE REMOVAL EXPENSE

Line No.	<u>Item</u>	Amount (a)	[1]
	Sludge Removal Expenses for the 12-Month Period Ended October	31st :	
1	2021	\$34,300	
2	2022	65,100	
3	Total Sludge Removal Expense	99,400	
4	Normalize over 2 years	2	
5	Normalized Level of Sludge Removal Expenses (L3/L4)	49,700	
		,	
6	Test Year Sludge Removal Expense	65,100	
7	Proforma Adjustment to Annualize Sludge Removal Expenses (L5 - L6)	(\$15,400)	
[1]	Per General Ledger Account - for each respective year, unless otherwis	se noted.	

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO UTILITIES EXPENSE

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Total Amount	
1	Test Year Utilities Expenses	\$32,006	[1]
2	Expenses Removed per Prior Rate Case: 6310-00 - Electric 6310-PH - Pumphouse Electric	(18,500) (7,217)	
4	Expenses to Increase: Cell phone bill \$28 to \$30 per month X 12 months	24	[3]
5	Adjustment to Utilities Expense (L2 + L3 + L4)	(25,693)	
6	Total Utilties Expense (L1+L5)	\$6,313	
[1]	Per Report_from_904_Georgetown_Treatment_Plant^LJ_LLC - General	ledger @ 10 31 3	12
ניז	6240-00 · OFFICE PHONE	\$1,560	
	6245-00 · PHONE EXPENSE CELL	336	
	6250-00 · Phone Sub Stations	2,521	
	6280-00 · OFFICE ELECTRIC	1,872	
	6310-00 · ELECTRIC - 904 Plant	18,500	
	6310-PH · PUMPHOUSE ELECTRIC OFFSET	7,217 \$32,006	
	Total Test Year Utilties Expenses		

- [2] Adjustment to remove per Public Staff recommendation in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 5.
- [3] Per Company Budget / Records.

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO LANDSCAPE, MOWING & EFFLUENT EXPENSES For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line No.	<u>Item</u>		Amount
1	Test Year Landscape, Mowing & Effluent Expenses		\$46,009 [1]
2 3 4	Expenses Removed per Prior Rate Case: 6327-00 · USE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM 6326-00 · LAND LEASE WASTEWATER APPLICATIONS Total Adjustment (L2 + L3)	(\$9,900) [2] (4,500) [2]	(14,400)
5 6 7	Effluent Aplication Charge: Sub 4 Effluent Water Application Charge @ \$1,653.08 New Effluent Water Application Charge @ \$2,518.05 Total Adjustment (L6 - L5)	\$19,837 [3] 30,217 [4]	10,380
8	Landscape, Mowing & Effluent Expenses Per Company (L1 + L4 + L7)		\$31,609
[1]	Per Report_from_904_Georgetown_Treatment_Plant^LJ_LLC - General Test Year Landscape, Mowing & Irrrigation per General Ledger @ 10/31 6325-00 · EFFLUENT WATER APPLICATIONS 6327-00 · USE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM 6325-00 · EFFLUENT WATER APPLICATIONS 6340-00 · GROUNDS & LANDSCAPING 6345-00 · MOWING COSTS Total		
[2]	Per Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC - General Ledger @ 10-31-2022		
[3]	Per Effluent Agreement charge approved in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 4.		
[4]	Effluent Agreement-Related Charges: Land Lease Wastewater Applications Electric Power for Irrigation Irrigation Pump Maint Total Effluent Agreement - Related Costs Monthly Charge (Total Charges divided by 12 months)	GL Account 6326 6310 6310-PH	2023 4,500 18,500 7,217 30,217 \$ 2,518.05

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 ADJUSTMENT TO PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Amount	
1	Professional Expenses - Per General Ledger - Accounting & Architect/Engineers & Legal	\$11,199	[1]
2	Reclassify Partial Engineering Fees from Test Year to Regulatory Expense for Rate Case Filing	(1,405)	[2]
3	Per Company Amount - Professional Expenses (L1 + L2)	\$9,794	
[1]	Per Report_from_904_Georgetown_Treatment_Plant^LJ_LLC - General Ledger @ 10.31. 8265-00 · PROF. FEES-ACCOUNTING	.22: \$8,200	
	8260-00 · PROF. FEES-ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS	\$2,810	
	8270-00 · PROF. FEES-LEGAL	\$189	
[2]	Reclassified one-half of the engineering fees based on review of services performed.		

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8

ADJUSTMENT TO REGULATORY EXPENSE

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Actuals @ 10.31.22 (a)	[1]	Estimates (b)	[2] _	Total[3	3]
1	Regulatory Expense per Application: Legal Services	\$0		\$20,000		\$20,000	
2	Accounting & Engineering Consultants	1,405		6,000		7,405	
3	Rate Case Labor Allocations	0		0		0	
4	Notices, Printing envelopes, Postage, Filing fee and Miscellaneous	0		1,384	_	1,384_	
5	Total Regulatory Expense (Sum of L1 thru L4)	\$1,405		\$27,384		\$28,789	
6	Amortization Period				-	3	
7	Regulatory Expense per Company (L5 / L6)					\$9,596	
8	Amount per Test Year	a.			_	1,405 [1]	l
9	Adjustment to Regulatory Expense				=	\$8,191	

^[1] Per Company's general ledger records & Schedule 3-8 Professional Fees

^[2] Estimates to be updated based on actual regulatory expenses. We plan to update these estimated expenses either by the close of the hearing or in a late-filed exh

^[3] Column (a) + Column (b), unless otherwise footnoted.

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 CALCULATION OF INCOME TAXES For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line No.	<u>item</u>	Per <u>Books</u> [1] (a)	After Pro Forma Adjustments [3] (b)	Proposed Rates [4]
1	Operating revenues	\$239,394	\$239,019	\$375,718
	Operating revenue deductions:			
2	Operating & maintenance expenses	299,093	271,906	271,906
3	Depreciation expense	70,108	67,639	67,639
4	Amortization of CIAC	0	. 0	0
5	Property taxes	437	437	437
6	Payroll taxes	3,192	3,375	3,375
7	Other Taxes	0	0	0
8	Regulatory Fee	395	311	488
9	Interest expense	0	0	0
10	Total deductions (Sum of L2 thru L9)	373,225	343,668	343,845
11	Taxable income (L1 - L10)	(133,831)	(104,649)	31,873
12	State income tax (L11 x 2.5%)	0		797
13	Federal taxable income after state income tax (L1 - L12)	(133,831)	(104,649)	31,076
14	Federal income tax (L13 x 21%)	0	0	6,526
15 16	Net amount (L11 - L12 - L14) Add: Interest expense	(133,831) 0_[2]	(104,649) <u>0</u> [2]	24,550 <u>0</u> [2]
17	Net income for a return (L15 + L16)	(\$133,831)	(\$104,649)	\$24,550

^[1] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Column (a).
[2] Line 9
[3] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Column (c).
[4] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Column (e).

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 CALCULATION OF REVENUE REQUIREMENT For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

					Operating		
Line		Rate Base	Retention	Revenue	Ratio	Retention	Revenue
No.	<u>Item</u>	Method	Factor	Requirement	Method	Factor	Requirement
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
	Operating revenue deductions:						
1	Operating & maintenance expenses	\$271,906			271,906	*	
2	Depreciation expense	67,639			67,639		
3	Amortization of CIAC	0			0		
4	Property taxes	437			437		
5	Payroll taxes	3,375			3,375		
6	Other Taxes	0			0		
7	Regulatory Fee	0			0		
8	Total operating revenue deductions	\$343,357	0.998700	\$343,804	343,357	0.998700	343,804
	Net operating income for a return:						
9	Debt service return	\$4,868	0.998700	4,874			
10	Equity return	\$10,601	0.769249	13,781	\$24,550	0.769249	31,914
11	Revenue requirement			\$362,459			\$375,718
12	Company Requested Revenue Requirement			\$375,718			
12	Company Requested Revenue Requirement			\$375,710			

Exhibit I Schedule 4A

904 Georgetown Treatment Plant LLC Docket No. W-1141, Sub 8 **CALCULATION OF OPERATING RATIOS** For The Test Year Ended October 31, 2022

Line No.	<u>ltem</u>	Present Rates (a)	After Pro Forma Rates (b)	Company Proposed Rates (c)
	Interest expense, regulatory fee, and income taxes include	led:		
1.	Gross operating revenues	\$239,394 [1]	\$239,019 [5]	\$375,718 [9]
2.	Operating expenses	373,225 [2]	343,668 [6]	351,168 [10]
3.	Operating ratios (L2 / L1)	155.90%	143.78%	93.47%
	Interest expense, regulatory fee, and income taxes exclude	ded:		
4.	Gross operating revenues	\$238,999 [3]	\$238,708 [7]	\$367,907 [11]
5.	Operating expenses	372,830 [4]	343,357 [8]	343,357 [12]
6.	Operating ratios (L5 / L4)	156.00%	143.84%	93.33%

- [1] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 4, Column (c).
- [2] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 29, Column (c).
 [3] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 4 Line 25 Line 26 Line 27, Column (a).
- [4] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 29 Line 25 Line 26 Line 27, Column (a). [5] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 4, Column (e).
- [6] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 29, Column (e).
- [7] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 4 Line 25 Line 26 Line 27, Column (c). [8] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 29 Line 25 Line 26 Line 27, Column (c).
- [9] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 4, Column (e).
- [10] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 29, Column (e).
- [11] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 4 Line 25 Line 26 Line 27, Column (e).
- [12] Exhibit I, Schedule 3, Line 29 Line 25 Line 26 Line 27, Column (e).

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. W-1141, SUB 8

IN THE MATTER OF

APPLICATION BY 904 GEORGETOWN TREATMENT PLANT, LLC FOR AUTHORITY TO ADJUST AND INCREASE RATES FOR PROVIDING SEWER UTILITY SERVICE IN ALL ITS SERVICE AREA IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

TIMOTHY P. TILMA

ON BEHALF OF

904 GEORGETOWN TREATMENT PLANT, LLC

JULY 6, 2023

1	0	PLEASE STATE	YOUR NAME AND	D RUSINESS	ADDRESS FO	R THE
1	Ο.		I OUN MARKE AND		$\Delta UUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU$	/1/ 1/1/1/

- 2 **RECORD.**
- A. My name is Timothy P. Tilma (Tim), and my business address is 800 N. Sandpiper
- 4 Club Drive, Sunset Beach, North Carolina 28468.

5 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION WITH 904 GEORGETOWN

- 6 TREATMENT PLANT, LLC.
- 7 A. I am the Manager of 904 Georgetown Treatment Plant, LLC ("904 Georgetown"
- 8 or "the Company").

9 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH 904

- 10 **GEORGETOWN.**
- 11 A. My responsibilities with 904 Georgetown include general oversight of 904
- Georgetown's day-to-day operations, and direct oversight of all corporate,
- compliance, finance, and regulatory matters related to 904 Georgetown.

14 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL

- 15 **BACKGROUND.**
- 16 A. In addition to being the Manager of the 904 Georgetown Wastewater Treatment
- Plant, I am the Manager of the following business entities: I am the General
- Manager of North Star Carolina Corporation, d/b/a Sandpiper Bay Golf & Country
- 19 Club (Sandpiper Bay) which is a company comprised of the Golf Club and the
- Shared Amenities, including the Sandpiper Bay Homeowners Association, and the
- 21 Sunset Village Condo Association. The purpose of the Golf Club is to provide a
- quality golf experience and lifestyle to the Members and Guests that play golf on

Owner. The purpose of the Shared Amenities is to prudently manage the budget while maintaining the value and integrity of the neighborhood to include an attractive front entry to the neighborhood, the 0.7-mile entry road, and the front entry guard gate and gazebo.

I have a degree in Social Science, B.A. 1978, from Alma College in Alma, Michigan, and a Masters Degree in Physical Education, M.S. 1983 from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I have managed Tennis and Golf Facilities for over 45 years and have a record of successful operations. I have shown leadership at many levels and have served on several boards and committees and am currently on the Board of Directors of the Myrtle Beach Golf Course Owners Association, and the North Carolina Golf Course Owners Association. I am a Member of the Professional Golf Association of America (PGA of America). This is a national association of 23,000 golf professionals who manage, teach, and promote the game of golf. I have been a member for 35 years.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN

WASTEWATER UTILITIES.

A.

I have been the Manager of 904 Georgetown for 15.5 years. I manage our Certified Wastewater Operator, who advises me daily as to plant operations. I also manage the Accounting Office of 904 Georgetown that is responsible for billing and collection as well as all accounts payable and receivable functions.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT 904 GEORGETOWN

2 O	WHEN DI) 904 GEORG	ETOWN AC	QUIRE ITS	UTILITY	FRANCHISE
------------	---------	-------------	----------	------------------	---------	------------------

3 IN NORTH CAROLINA?

1

- 4 A. The Commission granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity
- 5 ("CPCN") to 904 Georgetown to provide wastewater utility service on November
- 6 5, 2001, in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 0.
- 7 Q. HOW MANY WASTEWATER CUSTOMERS DID 904 GEORGETOWN
- 8 SERVE AS OF THE END OF THE TEST YEAR?
- 9 A. At the end of the Test Year of October 31, 2022, 904 Georgetown served 795
- wastewater customers, all of whom are residential.
- 11 Q. HAS 904 GEORGETOWN HAD ANY RATE INCREASES SINCE
- 12 RECEIVING ITS CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
- **NECESSITY IN 2001?**
- 14 A. Yes. 904 Georgetown filed and received a rate increase in 2007 for its wastewater
- utility system. The rates have not been adjusted since 2007 except for a decrease
- ordered by the Commission in 2015, which was the result of changes to the
- corporate state income tax rate related to House Bill 998 in Docket No. W-1141
- 18 Sub 6.
- 19 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

1 A.	The purpose of my	testimony is to	o address certain operational	and financial aspects
------	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------

- of 904 Georgetown's utility operation and help explain the Company's need for a
- 3 rate increase.

4 Q. WHAT ROLE HAVE YOU HAD IN THE PREPARATION OF THE

5 RATE CASE APPLICATION?

- 6 A. I have retained Peedin and Perry Consulting, LLC ("Peedin and Perry"), to assist
- with preparation of the rate case application, testimony, and exhibits in this matter.
- I have worked closely with them in providing the information needed to complete
- 9 the application, and I have reviewed their work.

10 Q. WHAT TEST YEAR PERIOD DOES THE COMPANY USE IN ITS

APPLICATION IN THIS DOCKET?

- 12 A. 904 Georgetown is utilizing a Test Year in this proceeding of the twelve months
- 13 ended October 31, 2022.

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<u>AFFILIATE RELATIONSHIPS</u>

15 Q. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE OTHER BUSINESSES YOU

16 MANAGE TO 904 GEORGETOWN?

- 17 A. North Star Carolina Corporation d/b/a Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club
- 18 ("Sandpiper Bay") is a wholly owned subsidiary of Matrix Development Company,
- Inc. ("Matrix"). 904 Georgetown is owned by North Star Management, Inc, and
- North Star Management, Inc. is also a wholly owned subsidiary of Matrix.

- The Sandpiper Bay is a customer of 904 Georgetown, and the offices of both
- 2 companies, Sandpiper Bay and 904 Georgetown, are in the Sandpiper Bay
- 3 Clubhouse.
- The Sandpiper Bay Golf Club has an agreement with the 904 Georgetown to use
- 5 the treated water that the plant produces. This relationship is detailed in the
- 6 "Effluent Easement and Irrigation Agreement" that was approved in Docket No.
- W-1141, Sub 4 and was also filed in this docket.
- 8 Q. HAVE YOU FILED COPIES OF ALL CONTRACTS BETWEEN 904
- 9 GEORGETOWN AND AFFILIATED ENTITIES FOR APPROVAL BY
- 10 THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION TO THE EXTENT
- 11 REQUIRED BY N.C. GENERAL STATUTE § 62-153?
- 12 A. Yes. We have filed the revised Effluent Easement and Irrigation Agreement that
- was initially approved in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 4.
- 14 Q. DOES 904 GEORGETOWN MAKE ANY PAYMENTS OR PROVIDE ANY
- 15 OTHER COMPENSATION OR VALUE TO AFFILIATES BEYOND
- 16 WHAT IS STATED IN COMMISSION-APPROVED CONTRACTS?
- 17 A. There are certain monthly expenses that 904 Georgetown shares with Sandpiper
- Bay such as the rental of office space, bookkeeping and accounting services, and
- management fees which are based on the number of hours spent working on 904
- Georgetown each week. 904 Georgetown also pays Sandpiper Bay for certain other
- administrative services such as office supplies, phone expenses and equipment

- rental, etc. This was true in our last rate case and continues today. The services are 1 based on actual costs, and there is no markup from the affiliate. 2
- WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE EFFLUENT EASEMENT
- AND IRRIGATION AGREEMENT THAT WAS FILED IN DOCKET NO. 4
- W-1141, SUB 4? 5

3

Q.

- The Company is still operating under the Effluent Easement and Irrigation 6 A.
- Agreement ("Effluent Agreement") that was filed in Docket No. W-1141, Sub 4. 7
- 8 No changes have been made to the services or charges approved in the Effluent
- Agreement. However, it has been 16 years since the Effluent Agreement charge 9
- was approved by the Commission. Clearly, the actual costs have increased 10
- 11 significantly during those 16 years. For that reason, the Company has updated the
- Effluent Agreement to reflect the appropriate level of expenses for the Effluent 12
- water application charge. This charge is established in the Effluent Agreement and 13
- 14 is based on actual cost, and there is no mark up. The new Effluent Agreement
- provides that the Effluent water application charge will be reset annually based on 15
- actual cost experience during the previous year. 16
- DOES THE EFFLUENT AGREEMENT PROVIDE BENEFITS TO 904 Q. 17
- GEORGETOWN AND ITS CUSTOMERS? 18
- Yes, it does. In many of these arrangements, it is the golf property that receives most 19 A.
- of the benefits because the golf course needs wastewater effluent spray to water the 20
- 21 golf facilities. Our situation is different. Sandpiper Bay Golf and Country Club has

l	adequate irrigation ponds and resources to handle its own needs. However, 904
2	Georgetown needs the ability to spray effluent on the golf course to assure that the
3	Company has adequate capability to dispose of its effluent properly. It is for that
1	reason that the Company pays Sandpiper Bay for accommodating that need, which
5	benefits both 904 Georgetown and its wastewater customers.

6 Q. DOES 904 GEORGETOWN OWN OR LEASE ALL THE PERSONAL

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AND REAL PROPERTY NEEDED TO PROVIDE UTILITY SERVICE?

Yes. 904 Georgetown owns all the utility property needed to provide utility service, except for the spray areas needed to dispose of the effluent.

OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE

- Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE WASTEWATER SYSTEM THAT 904
 GEORGETOWN OPERATES.
- 13 **A.** 904 Georgetown uses ground piping under the neighborhood roads that collect
 14 wastewater from the residential homes and condominium units. These sewer lines
 15 connect to one of three lift stations that lift the wastewater up to assist in
 16 transporting it to the main 904 Georgetown Plant location. The plant is operated in
 17 compliance with the Division of Water Quality Permit #WQ0013398, which was
 18 recently renewed and is in effect until Jan. 31, 2027. The 904 Georgetown office
 19 has a map of all the sewer lines that are part of the system.
- Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE RECORD
 OF 904 GEORGETOWN.

During my 15.5 years of Managing the 904 Georgetown Plant, the Company has received two Notices of Violation and one Notice of Deficiency. The first violation was in February 2011 for the aeration basin and filters that needed repair and replacement. The repairs were made within three months. The second violation was in October 2019 for nitrogen and ammonia levels that exceeded the monthly average. This violation was corrected within a week.

A.

The Company received a Notice of Deficiency in October 2021 after the September 2021 Inspection. We were directed to provide plans for repairing and cleaning the aeriation basin, and the splitter box, and the automatic backwashing function. We fulfilled these repair requests within 3 months. There have been no other notices.

Q. HAS 904 GEORGETOWN RECEIVED ANY CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS ABOUT QUALITY OF SERVICE?

On occasion, 904 Georgetown will receive an informal complaint that a resident's toilet is backing up. The Company will inspect the main line that services that home and the line that belongs to 904 Georgetown. In most cases, the backup is caused by a problem in the resident's pipes within their own personal system. In these cases, the Company educates the resident about the problem, the possible location and gives them recommendations on what action to take – perhaps to call a local plumber. There have been no complaints against 904 Georgetown filed with the Commission.

1 Q.	HAS	904	GEORGETOWN	MADE	ANY	RECENT	CAPITAL
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- 2 IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS WATER SYSTEMS?
- 3 A. In addition to the normal pump replacements, in the past three years 904
- 4 Georgetown has had to replace a control panel, a generator and DEQ required 904
- Georgetown to develop a mapping of the entire sewer treatment system.
- 6 Q. IN YOUR OPINION, IS 904 GEORGETOWN PROVIDING ADEQUATE
- 7 UTILITY SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS?
- 8 A. Yes, it is. This is evidenced by the quick response to customer service issues, DEQ
- 9 Notices, informal customer complaints, and the lack of any formal complaints
- being filed with the Commission.

11 REVENUE REQUIREMENT AND RATE OF RETURN

- 12 Q. HAS 904 GEORGETOWN SUSTAINED INCOME LOSSES FOR ITS
- 13 SEWER SYSTEM DURING THE TEST YEAR?
- 14 A. Yes. 904 Georgetown experienced a net income loss from sewer operations of
- 15 (\$133,831) during the Test Year.
- 16 Q. WHAT RATE OF RETURN DOES 904 GEORGETOWN'S CURRENT
- 17 RATES YIELD?
- 18 A. 904 Georgetown's current rates yield a per books rate of return on operating
- revenue deductions of (35.90%) for sewer operations, and an after proforma rate
- of return of (30.48%).

1 Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN THE REASONS THAT 904 GEORGETOWN

2 SUSTAINED INCOME LOSSES DURING THE TEST YEAR.

- A. 904 Georgetown's net income losses during the Test Year are due to operating expense cost increases and are the result of not having an approved rate increase since 2007. 904 Georgetown filed an application for a general rate increase in May 2022, but the Public Staff advised the Company that the Application did not comply with certain requirements, and a decision was made to withdraw that Application and re-file another Application at a later date. This docket is the result of those efforts.
- 10 Q. WHAT IS THE REVENUE INCREASE REQUESTED BY 904
 11 GEORGETOWN?
- A. 904 Georgetown's current per books sewer operating revenues are \$239,019, and 904 Georgetown's current expenses after proforma adjustments are \$343,668. 904 Georgetown proposes an increase in sewer revenues of \$136,700. That level of increase will result in total sewer revenue of \$375,718, which represents an increase in revenue of 36.38% for sewer operations.

17 Q. WHAT IS 904 GEORGETOWN'S PROPOSED CAPITAL STRUCTURE

IN THIS RATE CASE?

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904 Georgetown's actual capital structure is 100% equity. For ratemaking purposes, 904 Georgetown recommends a hypothetical 50% debt and 50% equity capital structure. Based on the advice of counsel and our utility consultants, this appears to be a debt-to-equity ratio that is comparable to the ratios used in other

- general rate cases decided by the Commission where there is no actual debt on the books.
- 3 Q. WHAT DEBT COST RATE DOES 904 GEORGETOWN PROPOSE IN
- 4 THIS PROCEEDING?
- I recommend 4.50% for the debt cost rate based on the advice of my counsel and utility consultants that a hypothetical debt rate of 4.50% is reasonable based on other water and sewer utility cases within the past year. I would note that interest rates have increased significantly, and based on those increases, the proposed hypothetical debt rate is on the low side of reasonable.
- Q. WHAT RATE OF RETURN ON EQUITY DOES 904 GEORGETOWN
 PROPOSE IN THIS PROCEEDING?
- I recommend 9.80% for the rate of return on equity. This recommendation is based on the more recent returns approved by the Commission and based on the advice of counsel and our utility consultants. Considering the increasing interest rates previously mentioned, as well as the rate of inflation, a 9.80% rate of return on equity for 904 Georgetown is reasonable.
- Q. WHAT OVERALL RETURN (WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF
 CAPITAL) RESULTS FROM THE CAPITAL STRUCTURE, DEBT COST
 RATE, AND EQUITY COST RATE RECOMMENDED BY 904
 GEORGETOWN IN THIS PROCEEDING?
- 21 **A.**

We have based the proposed overall rate of return on operating revenue deductions of 7.15%, based on a margin on operating expenses which relates to an operating ratio of 93.47% (including taxes) or 93.33% (excluding taxes). As allowed under NC Gen Stat 62-133.1, we have used the operating ratio method to evaluate 904 Georgetown's proposed rate increase. Prior to the operating ratio determination and due to the small margin between the proposed revenue requirement calculations, if the rate base method was determined to be appropriate, we propose using a capital structure of 50% debt and 50% equity with a return on equity of 9.80% and a debt cost of 4.50%, resulting in the overall weighted cost of capital of 7.15%

- 10 Q. IS THIS TESTIMONY TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF YOUR
 11 KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY AT THIS TIME?
- 14 A. Yes, it does.

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